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Negotiations between the State Government and the Travancore-Cochin Government.

* 2144 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 70 given on 6th December 1954 whether the Government have entered into an agreement with the Government of Travancore-Cochin State for bulk purchase of electricity?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The draft agreement for supply of bulk power from the Travancore-Cochin State to the Shoranur area was forwarded to the Travancore-Cochin Government for their concurrence in December 1954 and their final reply in the matter is awaited."

* 2145 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to question No. 70 answered on 6th December 1954—

(*a*) whether any agreement has since been reached between the Travancore-Cochin Government and this Government regarding the supply of electricity to Malabar from Pallivasal;

(*b*) if so, what the terms of the agreement are; and

(*c*) the date from which the agreement has been given effect to?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The draft agreement for bulk supply of power from the Travancore-Cochin State to the Shoranur area of Malabar district is under finalization.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise in view of the answer to clause (*a*)."

* 2146 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the present stage of the negotiations between the Travancore-Cochin Government and the Government of Madras for supply of electricity to Malabar from Pallivasal?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The draft agreement for bulk supply of electricity from the Travancore-Cochin State to the Shoranur area of Malabar district is under finalization."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the extension of electricity from Parle to Shoranur was included in the Budget proposals of 1954–55 and it was not taken up because of this agreement. Now, the Hon. Minister says, it is pending final approval. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to assure us that the preliminary work connected with the extension will be taken up? "

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Yes, Sir. It is pointed out here that the Chief Operation Engineer (South) has been instructed to take the preliminary works on the scheme of extension of electricity to Ottapalam. The hon. Member's reference to the provision of three lakhs in the Budget Estimate of 1954–55 and perhaps the absence of any provision for 1955–56 has evoked this question. The Chief Engineer (Electricity) has stated that nothing prevents them to take up this work when once the agreement is finalized."

8-50 a.m. SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" From the answer given by the Hon. Minister it seems that the Government have negotiated for bulk supply of electricity only to Shoranur area. There are other areas bordering the Travancore-Cochin State like Guruvayur area, Nattika firka and certain areas of Ponnani and Walluvanad taluks of Malabar district. To these areas also electricity can be easily extended from the Travancore-Cochin State. Will the Government enter into negotiations with the Travancore-Cochin Government so as to extend electricity without much expense to these areas also immediately? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" That is entirely a different question. We have negotiated for a certain quantity of power from the Travancore-Cochin State and we have got a scheme for utilization of that power. But the hon. Member suggests that there are more places to be served and negotiations have to be carried on with the Travancore-Cochin State for power supply. It is entirely a different question. It can be taken up after we get through this."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" My question has been partly answered. About the areas of Madras State, that border on the Travancore-Cochin State, the Hon. Minister in connexion with a previous question told us that negotiations were on with the Travancore-Cochin State. If so, will the Hon. Minister continue the negotiations and see that electricity is supplied to those border areas as soon as possible? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I cannot make any statement with reference to the border areas. I am not conversant with the details of the scheme at all. We have been negotiating for bulk supply of power from the Travancore-Cochin State and that has to be utilized in certain areas. If the hon. Member wants information as to the areas which are going to be served, I can furnish him a list."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" When was the draft agreement submitted to the Travancore-Cochin Government? "

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have already said that it was forwarded to them in December 1954."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" What is the quantity of power to be supplied by the Travencore-Cochin Government according to the agreement now under negotiation? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have not got the figures with me. It is somewhere round 20,000 kilowatts. I cannot say offhand about that."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Is there any objection to this Government increasing the bulk supply from the Travancore-Cochin State? If not, will the Government try to get more quantity stipulated in the agreement so that the other parts may also get electricity? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Power will have to be given by the Travancore-Cochin State. We cannot increase it. We are not the choosers."

Provision of house-sites for the Harijans.

* 2147 *Q.*—SRI A. MUTHUSWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state why no steps have been taken to provide house-sites to the Harijan Christians of Shrotriem Kodungal village in Tirukkoyilur taluk?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There are difficulties in starting proceedings for acquisition of private lands in Shrotriem Kodungal village as this village is an unsurveyed one. The Harijan Christians have therefore been persuaded to move to an adjoining ryotwari village where it will be easier to acquire private lands to provide them with house-sites. But they refuse to move to the adjoining villages and are adamant that only particular patta lands in the Kodungal village itself should be acquired for them. In view of the unreasonable attitude the Collector has been asked to defer the question of provision of house-sites for them in the village, for the present."

SRI A. MUTHUSWAMI :—" இந்தக் கொடுங்கல் கிராமத்தில் இருக்கும் ஹரிஜன கிருஸ்துவர்கள் மற்ற ஹரிஜனங்களைப் போலவே பொருளாதாரத்திலும் அதிக ஏழ்மையாகக் காணப்படுகிறார்கள். நானே நேரிடையாகச் சென்று பார்த்தேன். அவர்களுக்கு மனைக்கட்டு மிகவும் அவசியம். ஆகையாலே அவர்கள் ரோமன் கத்தோலிக்கர்களாக இருந்த போதிலும்கூட அவர்களுக்கு மனைக்கட்டு வழங்க அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா என்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" மனைக்கட்டு வழங்குவதற்காகத்தான் அவர்களை ஆயந்தூர் கிராமத்தில் போய் குடியேறும்